

**STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS**

IN RE: PETITION OF NOBLE ENERGY, INC., FOR AN EXCEPTION TO 312 IAC 16-5-1, THE GENERAL OIL AND GAS WELL SPACING RULES AND 312 IAC 16-5-2, THE GENERAL OIL AND GAS DRILLING UNIT SIZE RULES

PETITION

COMES NOW the Petitioner, Noble Energy, Inc., on behalf of itself and the owners of the leasehold interests set out herein, by attorney Karen J. Anspaugh, and respectfully shows the Commission of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana the following:

1. Petitioner owns or is the duly authorized representative of various interests, including working interests and royalty interests, in the oil and gas leaseholds covering all of the land known as the Acheson 1-12H Drilling Unit, described as follow (hereinafter referred to as "Affected Area"):

- o The Southwest Quarter of Section 1 and the Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 10 West, Sullivan County, Indiana, containing 378.72 acres, more or less.

Attached hereto and incorporated herein are Exhibit "A," being a list of said leasehold interests, Exhibit "B," being a depiction of the well configuration and a map of the Affected Area.

2. As allowed by 312 IAC 16-5-3, Petitioner herein seeks an exception to 312 IAC 16-5-1, the General Oil and Gas Well Spacing Rules, and 312 IAC 16-5-2, the General Oil and Gas Drilling Unit Size Rules. The variances requested are within the scope of 312 IAC 16-5-3, which does not prescribe minimum distances allowed between wells or maximum acreage allowed in a drilling unit. Said variances are for the following described purposes:
 - a) To eliminate spacing restrictions applicable to the horizontal wells, except that the location where the well bore enters the New Albany Shale and all portions of the lateral located within said formation shall be drilled more than three hundred and thirty (330) feet from any unconsolidated property boundary;
 - b) To establish a drilling unit containing 378.72 acres, more or less, for horizontal drilling in the New Albany Shale formation in the Affected Area.
3. Petitioner herein respectfully submits to the Commission that said exceptions are supported by regional and geological characteristics and would allow the most efficient and economic recovery of natural gas:

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- a) Application of the Non-Rule Policy, published in Department of Natural Resources Information Bulletin #58, would establish a drilling unit comprised of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1 and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 10 West, containing 189.50 acres, more or less;
 - b) Pursuant to application of the Non-Rule Policy, placing an additional well on the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 1 and the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 10 West would be impractical and uneconomical. Accordingly, the correlative rights of the landowners in said areas would not be protected and they would receive no production revenue;
 - c) During drilling and initial testing in and near the Affected Area, commercial quantities of natural gas were encountered within the New Albany Shale;
 - d) Permeability within the New Albany Shale is low and the use of horizontal wells is expected to more economically keep pace with volume requirements at the Affected Area natural gas processing facilities;
 - e) Drilling horizontal wells will enhance gas recovery within the New Albany Shale by cutting across existing fracture patterns within the formation which are often more vertical than horizontal in nature, thereby facilitating the flow of gas from the shale, to the fractures, to the well bores;
 - f) Drilling horizontal wells in the manner described herein can effectively and economically recover the natural gas resources within a 378.72 acre drilling unit;
 - g) The proposed exceptions to the General Oil and Gas Well Spacing Rules and General Oil and Gas Well Drilling Unit Size Rules will not result in a loss of resources within the New Albany Shale formation of the Affected Area. The variances will enhance recovery of the natural gas from the low permeability of the New Albany Shale formation.
4. Petitioner is ready and willing to supply the Commission or its representatives such further and additional information as may be pertinent or relative to consideration of the above described well spacing and unit size variances within the Affected Area, either at or prior to consideration of this Petition.
 5. Petitioner has not attached structure maps hereto, as structure has little impact upon the production of natural gas from the New Albany Shale. The quantity of natural gas recovered will depend instead upon the existing fracture patterns within the formation.
 6. Petitioner represents that to the best of its knowledge and belief it would be in the best interests of conservation and the preservation and utilization of petroleum resources to grant the exceptions requested in Sections 2 (a) and 2 (b) above.

Therefore, Petitioner prays that, through an informal hearing, the above described exceptions to 312 IAC 16-5-1 and 312 IAC 16-5-2 be authorized and established, according to any further terms and conditions as the Commission may impose in its Order establishing such unit and spacing.

Respectfully submitted,

NOBLE ENERGY, INC.

By:


Karen J. Anspaugh #18975-49
49 Boone Village, Suite 168
Zionsville, Indiana 46077
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

For Notification:

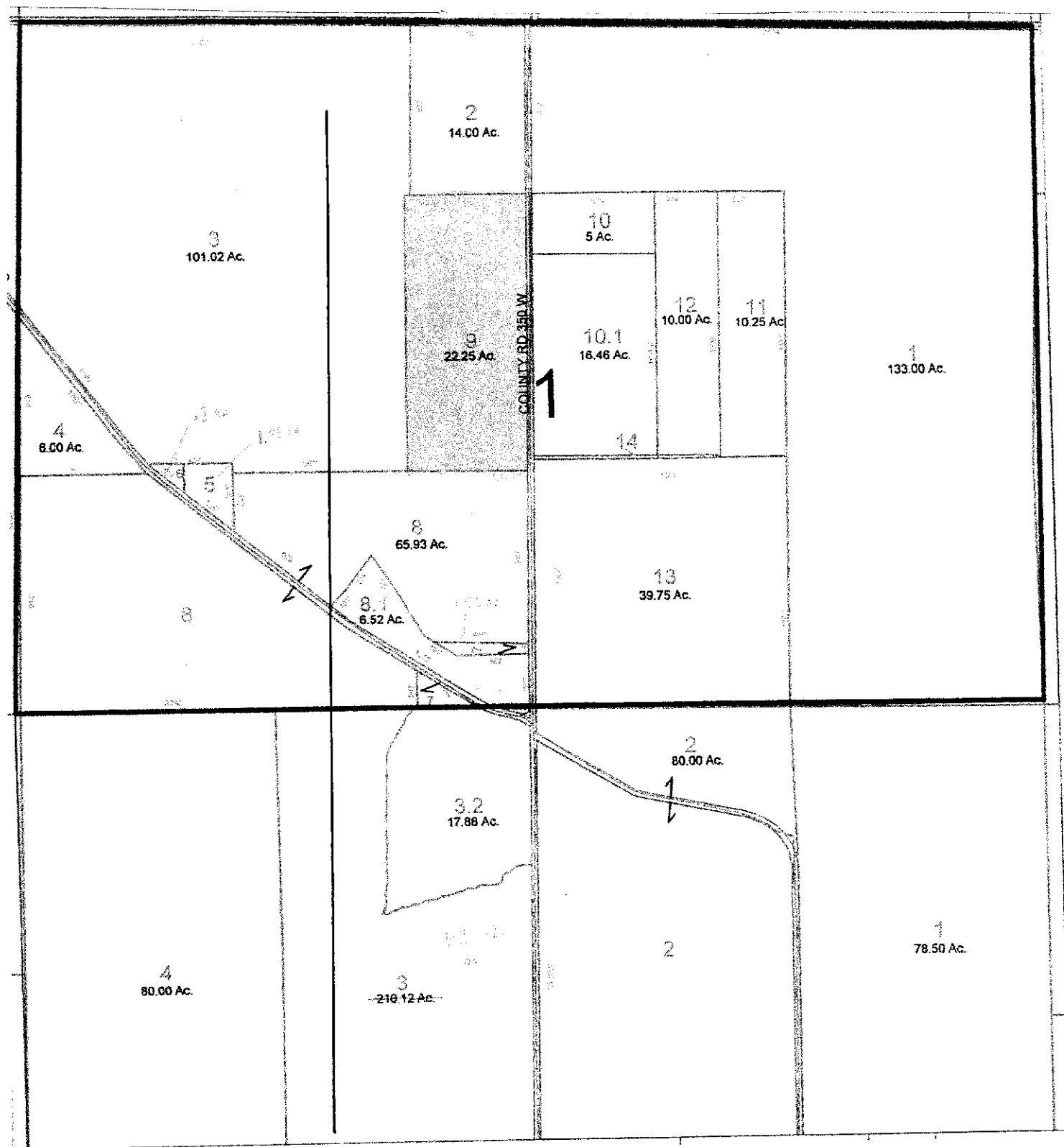
Noble Energy, Inc.
Attn: Claudia Baesler
1625 Broadway Street, Suite 2200
Denver, Colorado 80202

EXHIBIT "A"
SCHEDULE OF LEASEHOLD INTERESTS

Acheson 1-12H Drilling Unit
The Southwest Quarter of Section 1 and the Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 10 West
Sullivan County, Indiana

Tract	Acres	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Leased Acreage:							
1-002	14.000	Quinn	Lori	6122 South County Road 350 West	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
1-003	101.020	Acheson Family Farm		2410 Melrose Drive	Champaign	Illinois	61820
1-004	6.000	David Phegle Trust		5719 South County Road 550 West	Merom	Indiana	47861
1-005	1.250	Lambeth	Betty	8743 South County Road 400 West	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
1-006	0.200	Lambeth	Betty	8743 South County Road 400 West	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
1-007	1.550	Knotts	Carl and Eva	Post Office Box 346	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
1-008	65.930	Knotts	Carl and Eva	Post Office Box 346	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
1-008.1	6.520	Trimble	Jeffrey	6527 South Buffalo Trace	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
1-009	22.250	Phillips & Arnette Farms		2268 West County Road 300 South	Sullivan	Indiana	47882
12-003	62.120	Acheson Family Farm		2410 Melrose Drive	Champaign	Illinois	61820
12-003.2	17.880	Shan Del Unger Trust		6610 South County Road 350 West	Sullivan	Indiana	47882
12-004	80.000	Knotts	Carl and Eva	Post Office Box 346	Carlisle	Indiana	47838
	378.720	TOTAL ACRES IN DRILLING UNIT					

EXHIBIT "B"



SECTION 1 IRR.

SURVEYORS SEAL

Sec 1

Sec 12

SURVEYORS NOTES

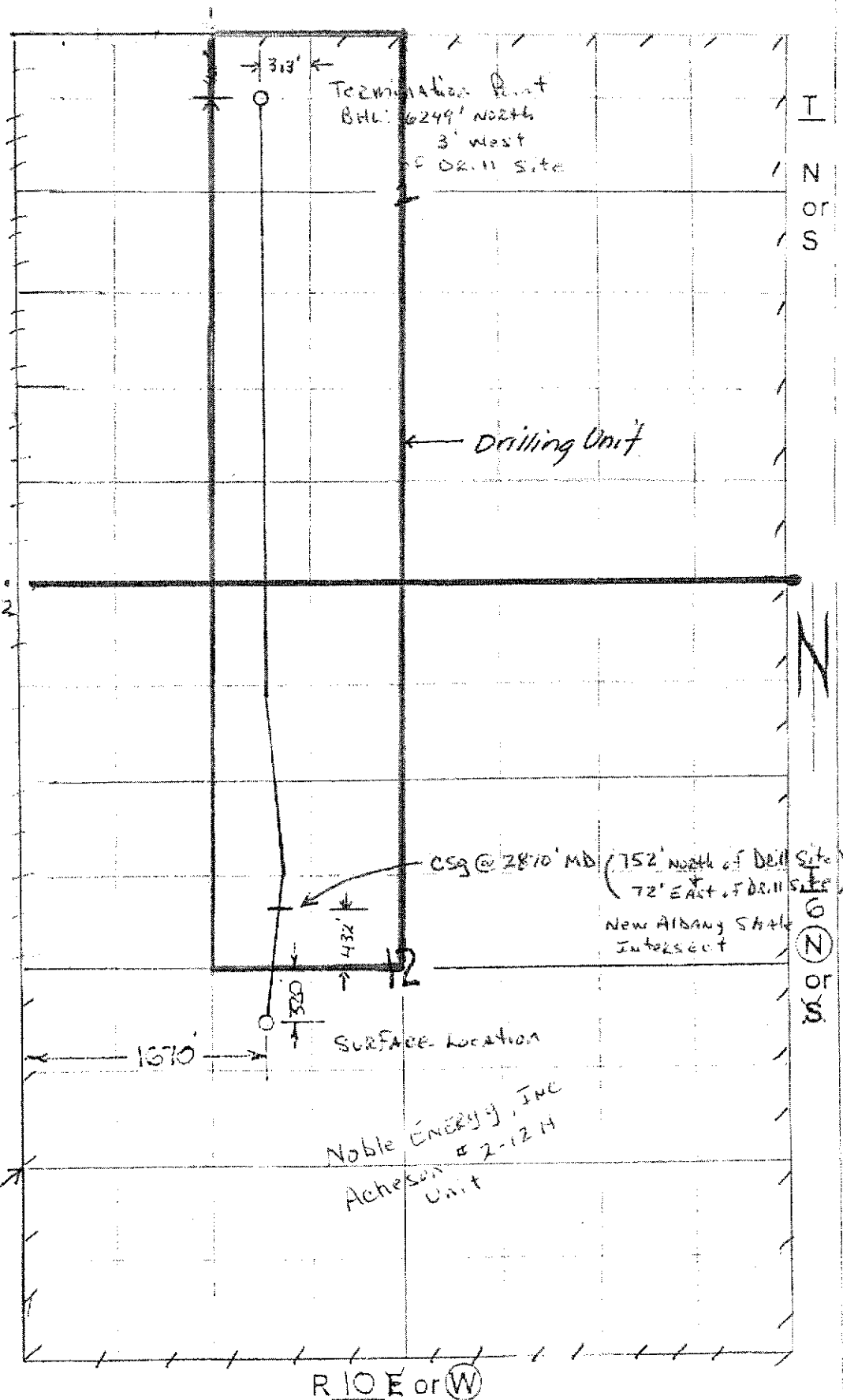
NOBLE ENERGY

ACHESON # 2-12 H

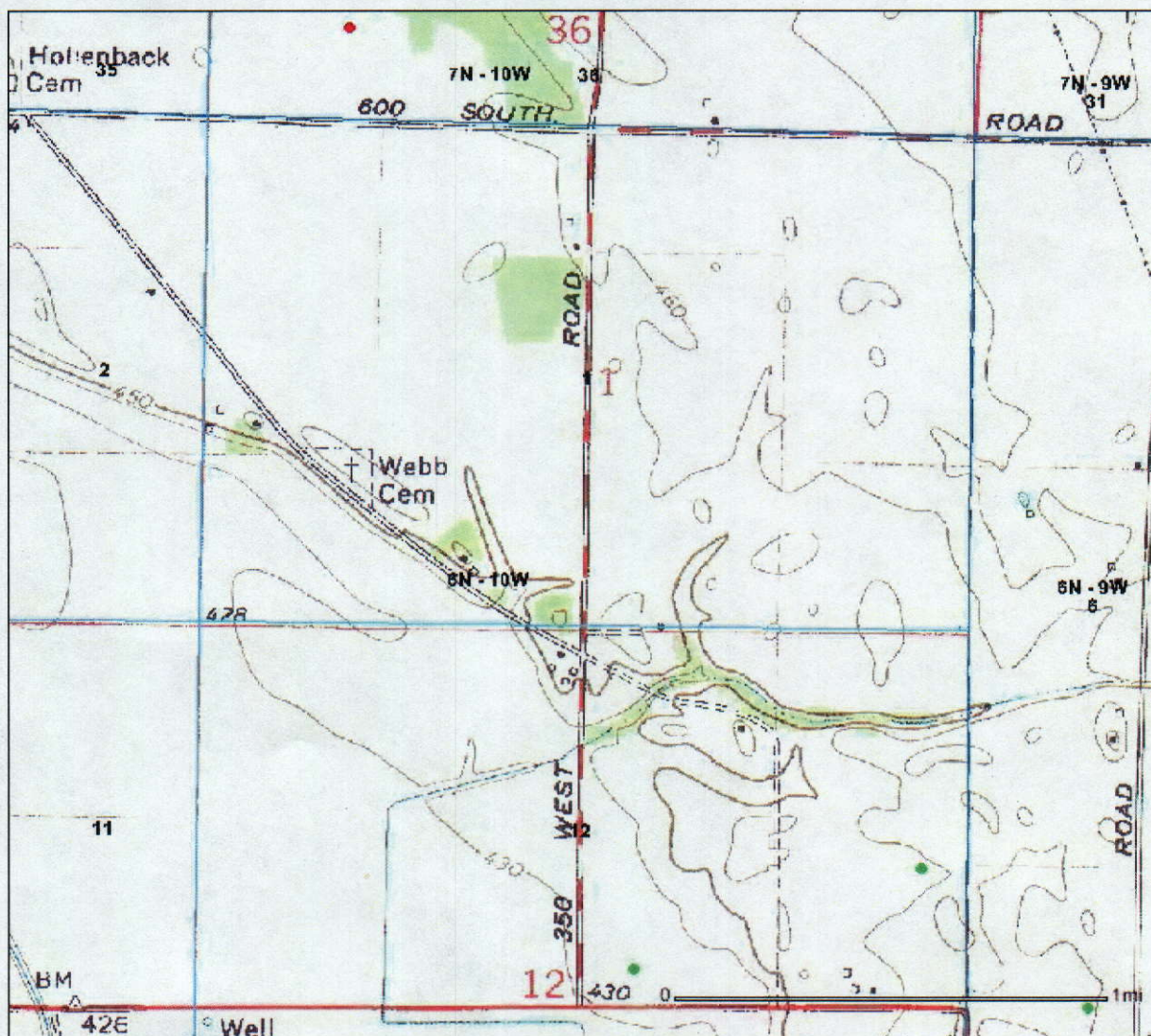
GROUND 425

SURVEYORS SEAL

Leased
Acreage



PDMS Output



DISCLAIMER

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Indiana Geological Survey